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SUBJECT Ostrava-Karvina Mines (OKD) The Ludvik Mine

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1. The directorate of the Ostrava-Karvina Mines is located in Ostrava. Under the directorate of the OKD in Ostrava is the mine Ludvik [redacted]. The total number of employees of this mine is approximately 2,000 workers, working in three shifts. The mine is equipped with modern machinery of Czechoslovak make. The planned yearly target of this mine was surpassed by approximately 20% [redacted].
2. Salaries and wages are paid according to the individual output and to the character of work. The average monthly wage is approximately 5,000 crowns. The shockworkers, whose number is rather negligible, earn up to 12 thousand crowns per month. Additional food rations for the miners were paid only until the end of 1951; after that date they were withdrawn. Miners do not enjoy any other advantages. They eat at the canteen; the food is bad and insufficient and thus the miners have to buy additional food on the free market. For their food in the canteen, they have to pay approximately 1,000 crowns per month (breakfast, lunch and dinner). The miners who cannot live with their families are accommodated in boarding houses.
3. Political propaganda in the mines is very intensive. There are organizations of the Communist Party and of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement in the mine. Both these organizations strive to raise the morale of the miners by all available means, e.g. meetings, local broadcasts, posters, etc. If any miner fails to fulfill his assigned target, his name is put on the bulletin board and he is described as an enemy of the working class and of the socialistic regime. Many of the employees working in the mine are those who had been transferred there from other working places as a penalty measure. However, the majority of the employees are Communists. Membership in the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement (ROH) is obligatory for all workers. Membership dues are deducted from their wages. Meetings of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement take place at least once a week; the main agenda consists of reports on the fulfillment of planned targets, working competitions between the various divisions, and mutual accusations of the present workers. This is also the main theme of the meetings of the local organization of the Communist Party with one exception: there the blame for the failure to fulfill the planned target is attributed to workers who are not members of the Communist Party.

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SECRET, [REDACTED]

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4. The main activity of youth groups consists of attendance at lectures on cultural themes. In their free time too, the members of the youth groups form voluntary brigades in the plant. One of their tasks is to get the new employees into their ranks. Some members of the Union of Czechoslovak Youth (SCM) are entrusted with the task of watching the activities and work of some older workers.
5. Recently a campaign was launched against the remilitarization of Western Germany. The workers were requested to sign petitions against the rearming of Western Germany. The topic was discussed at the plant meetings. It was explained that the Americans, with the support of the Germans, are trying to dominate the world, disturb peace, and destroy the building of socialism in Czechoslovakia. The reaction in the ranks of the workers was mixed. Many people were afraid of the Germans; the others simply did not believe this propaganda.

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